

**COURSE TITLE:** Pràctiques de Literatura Anglesa Clàssica I

**COURSE TEACHER:** Joan Curbet

**SEMESTER:** A

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT:**

Class Participation

2 Papers

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT:**

**Bodies and Souls in Medieval English and European Literature and Culture**

Using a comparative and multi-disciplinary perspective, this course will try to the various cultural forms in which the key notions of both “soul” and “body” are interrelated in English and European culture between the late eleventh and the early sixteenth centuries. The image of the “dark Middle Ages” as a period mostly characterised by repression, violence and sexual oppression has been discredited for a long time; if it is true that the dominant ideologies of Medieval Europe had a religious or theocratic basis, it is also true that this aspect must be seen in deep connection with a wide variety of discourses on the body, seen both from religious or secular perspectives, or from the various combinations of both.

This allows for many spaces of exploration of physicality as a nexus of the material and the spiritual, as a site of political confrontation or a space for erotic pleasure: our discussion of the literary texts will try to highlight these various possibilities. This discussion will be complemented by the contextualisation of the cultural environment where the texts originated, always seen in relation to our main subject, and always trying to establish connections with the many ways in which these texts are read in, and variously adapted by, our own contemporary environment.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Marie de France, *Lais*

*Yvain and Gawain* (thirteenth century English romance)

Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* (+ other selections from the Divine Comedy)

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Parliament of Fowles*

Arcipreste de Hita, *Libro de Buen Amor/ The Book of Good Love*

*The Book of Margery Kempe* (selection)

Sir Thomas Malory, *La Morte d'Arthur*. (selection)

English and Spanish Romances

(Most of this material will be made available in a reading packet by the start of the semester)